

STATE OFFICIALS EXAMINING ACTS OF LEGISLATURE

Six Thousand Copies of New Laws Will be Printed Very Soon

NO MORE ROAD LOANS

(By M. L. SHIPMAN)

Raleigh, March 21.—Two weeks away from the General Assembly finds State officials delving into the record written into the Statutes with a view to ascertaining "where they are at." This does not apply to all department heads for some of them were not even given "the once over." Additional service is asked of others, the extent of which has not been "figured out." The Senate and House journals were completed last week by principal clerks Martin and Lassiter respectively who filed with the Secretary of State two copies of each, one for the permanent files of the office and another copy for the use of the public printer. "Old Man Economy" decreed this year that the captions of the acts of the General Assembly need not be printed and the public will have to be content with the information carried in the newspapers touching the work of that body until the public, local public and private laws appear in book form sometime during the early summer. 6,000 copies of the public laws and 1250 each of the local public and private laws are being printed. In the meantime, the secretary of State will supply hundreds of certified copies of new laws needed for various dry purposes by interested parties. A big force of copyists is now engaged in this special service.

After a brief rest from the strain of official duties during the General Assembly Governor McLean returned from Pinehurst and plunged into a mass of data which had accumulated on his desk. The presidential boom recently started elicited only a smile, comments being deferred until some future day. Besides the selection of four emergency judges the Governor has named many members of boards for various agencies and institutions and delegates to a number of conventions soon to be held for the consideration of matters of interest to this and other states. The County Government Advisory Commission which held its first meeting in the Governor's office during the week, is composed of Dr. E. C. Brooks, president of State College, chairman; J. E. Woodland, of Morehead City, president of the State Association of County Commissioners; D. W. Newsome, of Durham; E. M. Lyda, of Asheville, and Professor A. C. McIntosh, of the University of North Carolina. The temporary secretary is A. S. Brower, business manager of State College. This commission has at its disposal an annual appropriation of \$15,000 and the authority to accept donations. It may employ trained workers to assist the counties in making out their budgets and render other services under the direction of the commission.

Governor McLean resumed his daily conferences with members of the press the day after adjournment of the General Assembly and expressed pleasure on the return of this pleasant contact with those who are assisting in making North Carolina a greater State. While the Governor secured practically everything seriously contemplated in his legislative program, which included many constructive measures, he expressed the conviction that the act providing for the maintenance of the State's highway system is one of the most important. The addition of \$30,000,000 in road bonds by the recent General Assembly advances the aggregate for this purpose to \$115,000,000 and brings the question of maintenance at the point of urgent necessity. The new bond bill provides that no more loans from counties are to be used by the State for road construction and that the gasoline tax shall remain inviolate for the road fund. The recent bond issue is expected to complete the road building program and the Highway Commission will then spend its energy in maintaining the entire system it has builded so wisely and so well. County loans are to be adjusted from the proceeds of the new bonds and many miles of county roads are to be taken over by the State commission and treated as a part of the general highway system.

Taxes Coming In
Following adjournment of the General Assembly the scene of activities was transferred from the Capitol to the Revenue Building presided over by Revenue Commissioner (Continued on page eight)

ROAD SENTENCES FOR DEFENDANTS

Several Got Terms on Roads. Only Two Civil Cases Tried Last Week

The trial of the criminal docket of Superior Court was not finished last week until Thursday afternoon and so this newspaper could not give a full account last week of what was done. On Friday two civil cases were tried and then court adjourned. The next term here will be in June. The judgment of the court as to the various cases tried were as follows:

Matthew Owens, charged with abandonment, Mr. and Mrs. Owens straightened out their differences and Judge Cranmer dismissed the defendant upon payment of costs. He required that the couple shall live in a house to themselves for the next two years.

Manly B. Fulcher who was convicted of beating his wife had his sentence changed from a term on the roads to 9 months at the county home, where he will have to work.

Reuben Guthrie, violating the prohibition law, got four months on the roads of Pitt, Greene or Craven counties in one case. In the other case he got 9 months on roads, the sentence to be stricken out on his paying \$500 to Miss Mary E. Hurst, for bodily injuries done her with car.

Wiley Wilson and Dan Bell, violating prohibition law, got six months on roads.

William Bell violating prohibition law, sentenced to four months on roads.

Howard Willis, violating prohibition law, prayer for judgment continued. Must give bond for \$300 to show good behavior for two years. The two civil cases tried were that of R. S. Brett versus Seashore Transportation Co. and Kathleen Sheppard versus Seashore Transportation Co. Brett got a verdict of \$800 and Miss Sheppard got one for \$1500. The company gave notice of appeal.

The grand jury made its report as to the county offices, home, jail and found all in good shape.

REAL ESTATE SELLING ALL OVER COUNTY

Real estate transactions recorded for the past week were pretty well scattered throughout the county. All the way, in fact, from Portsmouth to White Oak township. One of the principal transactions recorded was that of a farm in Beaufort township to R. E. Musgrave, a West Virginia man. The list of deeds filed is as follows:

D. M. DeNoyer and wife to Trustees Graded School, 1 lot Beaufort, for \$10.

M. A. Hill Tax Collector to R. E. Chaplain, 1 lot, Beaufort for Taxes Paid.

Helen J. Russell et als to R. E. Musgrave et als, 2 tracts, Beaufort Township, for \$4,000.

H. L. Joslyn and wife to B. C. VanWye and wife, 14 acres H. I. for \$100.

Samuel E. Murphy to M. F. Murphy, 2 acres Hunting Quarter Township, for \$10.

Morehead Bluffs to P. T. Ferguson, 2 lots Morehead Bluffs, for \$1391.

Miles Becton and wife to Annie Fisher Becton, 1 lot Morehead City for \$200.

Mrs. S. T. Holland and husband to Dora Bell, 3 lots, Newport for \$200.

L. F. McCabe and wife to James H. Jones, 1 lot Newport for \$120.

G. R. Lawrence and wife to G. W. Gillikin, 6 acres, Straits, for \$600.

C. J. Willis to Ida M. Willis, 1 acre, Smyrna for \$1.

E. W. Meadows and wife to Ben O. Jones, interest in tract White Oak for \$10.

Jeremiah Abbott to W. O. Williams 4 1-4 acres Portsmouth, for \$200.

TWO CASES WERE TRIED IN POLICE COURT MONDAY

Mayor Thomas had only two cases up for trial Monday afternoon but they sufficed to draw out a large crowd of spectators most of whom were colored people.

One case that of Frank Henry charged with assaulting Lina Wigfall was dismissed as there was no evidence to justify the charge. George Copes charged with stealing chickens was bound over to Superior Court under a bond of \$100. Copes, who is a negro, was tried a few weeks ago on the charge of entering a residence in town and stealing some jewelry. He was acquitted of this indictment.

LAW SAYS ALL HUNTERS MUST SECURE LICENSE

Many Changes Made In State Game Laws By Recent General Assembly

DEER SEASON SHORTER

Everybody who does any hunting in North Carolina now must have a license to do it. It used to be that license was required of non-resident hunters only but the game law adopted by the General Assembly has made a change in this as in a great many other particulars of the hunting regulations. There is an exception to this rule though, in that a person may hunt on his own land without a license, also a person who has leased land for cultivation may hunt on it without a license.

The new game law creates a game commission of four persons. They are to serve four years and get no pay except their per diem expenses. They are appointed by the Governor. The Director of the Department of Conservation and Development is a member ex officio of the body. The purpose of the commission is "to protect, propagate and preserve the game, fur bearing animals and protected birds of the State and to enforce the provisions of the act. The commission also must get up, classify and preserve statistics, keep records and other information pertaining to game. It shall make an annual report January the first to the Governor.

The commission has a great deal of authority under the new law. It may acquire lands and waters for the purpose of propagating and preserving game. It can make rules as to hunting, and can change them when it sees fit. It can breed and raise birds and animals if it chooses. The commission must appoint a State Game Warden, whose salary shall not exceed \$5000 a year and who may be allowed \$1500 a year for expenses. With the consent of the commission the Warden shall have the power to employ deputy wardens, refuge keepers and other employees. Persons collecting license fees must remit them to the State Game Warden on the first Tuesday of each month. Licenses shall be issued by the Clerk of the Superior Court, deputy wardens or any one authorized to do so by the State Game Warden.

Considerable changes have been made in the open season for hunting in North Carolina. With very few exceptions all of the counties now have the same restrictions as to hunting and the open season is the same for all on certain kinds of game. The open season for deer and bear is October the first to January the 15th. A hunter may kill only two deer in one day and only four in an entire season. The bag limit for squirrels is 10 a day. The open season for quail and wild turkey is December first to March the first. The bag limit for quail is 10 a day. It is unlawful to kill or capture game from power boats, aeroplanes or automobiles. It is unlawful also to offer for sale game, except squirrels and rabbits. Violation of the game law subjects the offender to a fine of \$50 or to be imprisoned 30 days in jail for the first offense. For the second offense the fine may be \$200 or imprisonment six months or both. The new law becomes effective June the first, 1927.

Not Many Bids Were Received For Public Improvement Bonds

Public improvement bonds, as they are called, of the town of Beaufort to the amount of \$125,000 were sold at a meeting of the board of commissioners at the city hall Monday. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Thomas at noon and all members of the board were present.

The most noticeable thing about the meeting was the scarcity of bidders for the bonds. Usually when bonds are sold a number of bidders are present and also letters and telegrams are received. Only two bidders were present Monday, C. H. Godwin representing a Toledo, Ohio firm and C. H. Godwin Jr, representing a Cincinnati house and no other bids were received. They made no written offer for the bonds but acted together and submitted oral bids. The board and the buyers dickered for about an hour and half and finally the bonds were sold to the Cincinnati firm, Walter, Woody and Hermandinger. The price agreed upon was par less the accrued interest from March 1st to the date of delivery which goes to the buyer.

EYE TROUBLE CAUSES ALARM

Considerable Number of Morehead City Children Found to Have Slight Eye Affection

Some excitement and also alarm was caused in Morehead City last week by the fear that a number of school children had contracted the dread eye disease known as trachoma. Some eye trouble which had developed in a number of children led to the belief that it might be trachoma. However to the relief of all concerned it has turned out that the ailment was not trachoma and not serious at all.

The matter having been reported to the State Board of Health Dr. F. M. Register of Raleigh, Dr. A. D. Foster of the U. S. Marine Hospital at Norfolk and Dr. T. C. Britt of the County Health Department went to Morehead City last Friday and examined a large number of the white school children. It was found that about 80 of them had some trouble with the eyes. The doctors' name for it is follicular conjunctivitis, which sounds pretty bad but the physicians say it is not and that the children would get over it even if nothing were done for them. This affection is a sort of expression of the general physical condition of the child and may be due to enlarged tonsils, mal-nutrition or something else. There is no danger of blindness from the affection and ordinarily a child will out grow it. However the physicians say it is proper to take whatever steps are needed to improve the health of a child who has the trouble so that he may get rid of it as quickly as possible.

It is considered likely that an examination would show there are a good many children in the county, besides those at Morehead City, who have some slight eye troubles. Physicians say that parents should see to it that their children are well nourished and in as good physical condition as it is possible for them to be.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS MEET AT ATLANTIC

On Sunday afternoon March 20, some interested Sunday School workers met at the Methodist church in Atlantic for the purpose of organizing a Sunday School unit in Hunting Quarter township.

Mr. J. A. Hornaday of Beaufort gave a short but interesting talk on State organization—the purpose being to promote efficiency in the Sunday School.

Professor Rose also of Beaufort, who is very much interested in boys and girls gave a helpful talk on the Junior work of the Sunday School.

Mr. C. R. Wheatly was interested in adult work. He said that our Sunday Schools could not be successful until the fathers and mothers realized that it was their duty to be present every Sunday morning. The child is happy when following his father. Mr. Duncan's talk was on Sunday School administration. He believes that the Sunday School is the nucleus of the community and when this is realized the administration problem is solved. We regret that only a few were present, but with the work begun we hope to do our part in making our county better morally and spiritually.

A top-dressing of 100 pounds of nitrate of soda or 75 pounds per acre of sulphate of ammonia will make the small grains grow better this spring.

CARTERET COUNTY STUDENT EXPLAINS COUNTY RELATIONSHIP TO STATE

Hard To Tell What The Law Is For Any Particular County So Many Special Acts Have Been Passed. Many Abuses Have Grown Up Haphazard Financial Methods Cause Poor System of Bookkeeping (University News Letter)

Soft Crab Season Opened Last Monday

The open season for soft crabs began in Carteret County Monday and the fishermen around Marshallberg and other places where crabs are to be found got busy. They did right well Monday but they got only one day's fishing. A cold northeaster blew up Monday night and that ended it for the time being.

When the weather is stormy and cold crabs bury themselves in the mud to keep warm, but as soon as the sun begins to shine and the warm south wind commences to blow they come out of their hiding places and set about hunting for food. This is when the fishermen catch them. In the first of the season soft crabs are small, most too small a fellow who is hungry for them thinks. As the weather warms up they grow very rapidly though and in a few weeks four or five of them will make a pretty good meal for most folks. The little ones are very sweet and tender and are highly esteemed by epicures. One the menus of the fine hotels and restaurants soft crabs rank high and are very popular.

The outlook for a successful crab season in this section seems to be rather favorable. Fishermen say the signs are good and that if they can have a few days of fine weather they expect to bring a considerable quantity of soft crabs to the market.

COMMUNITY CLUB FAVORS ASSOCIATED CHARITIES

For a long time Beaufort has needed an organization to look after the charitable work now being done by the public welfare committees of different societies and by individuals.

The Community Club has realized the need of a Board of Associated Charities or some similar organization for some time, and feels that this branch of local work can be perfected with the cooperation of the churches, P. T. A., Chamber of Commerce, and other societies, organizations and fraternities.

The club is asking that serious thought be given the idea of such a board, and that all organizations feel free to express themselves on the subject.

Pub. Chairman.

ISLE OF PINES STEAMER IN BEAUFORT SATURDAY

A large passenger steamer, the Pinero from Philadelphia bound to Batabano, Cuba arrived in Beaufort harbor last Friday night and spent Saturday. The vessel stopped to take on some oil and other supplies. She was carrying a cargo of cement and oil.

The Pinero belongs to the Isle of Pines Steamship Company and the president of that company Mr. J. A. Hill was aboard. Captain Fred Rouse was in command of the vessel. The Pinero will engage in the passenger and freight service plying between Batabano and Nueva Geron, Isle of Pines. She is 162 feet long, 34 foot beam and is well equipped for service. Captain Rouse expected to make the trip from Beaufort to Cuba in about four days.

MRS. BAKER LAID TO REST.

A host of friends which filled St. Paul's Episcopal Church attended the funeral services of Mrs. L. C. Baker, nee Miss Thelma Garner, Saturday, at three o'clock. Services were conducted by Dr. G. W. Lay. Interment was in the Episcopal cemetery. A short service was held in the church and concluded at the grave. Hymns, "The Strife is O'er" and Light's "Abode Celestial Salem" were sung at the church by the choir and "Jesus My Savior Look on Me" and "There is a Blessed Home" were sung at the grave. The many beautiful floral tributes attested to the popularity of the young woman. Mrs. Baker was the daughter of the late Nathan Garner. She is survived by her husband, mother and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Eggs are too cheap to feed low producing hens, says many poultry producers and they have begun culling out the poor stock.

At the regular meeting of the North Carolina Club, February 21, Ralph W. Noe, of Carteret county, presented a paper on County Government Laws. In this paper he described the relationship of the county to the state under the Constitution of 1868, showing how it had certain real powers and duties under Section 2 of Article VII. But under Section 15 of this Article, amended to the Constitution in 1875, the Legislature was given power to pass any special act it saw fit for the governing of counties and municipal corporations, except those providing that there shall be ad valorem taxes and that debts in aid of the rebellion shall not be paid.

The special acts passed under this amendment have had a detrimental effect on the counties for two reasons. First, because of the large number of the public-local laws (8,274 were passed, repealed, reenacted, or amended in the period from 1911 to 1925) and the fact that they are scattered through the many volumes of the session laws; this makes it impossible to know exactly what the law is for any one county, and therefore impossible for the commissioners elected therein to govern the county as well as they might. Second, the present practice of passing public-local laws at the suggestion of the representatives and without debate leaves room for evil possibilities and has the effect of confusing the fiscal management of the counties when new officers, boards, or other agents, handling funds are established or abolished at almost every biennial session.

The speaker showed how this has resulted in taking the control of purely local affairs away from the people in many cases and has made it impossible for the county commissioners to exercise their acknowledged duty of supervising the other officers of the county and regulating the finances.

The haphazard financial methods resulting thereby have caused the counties to resort almost entirely to the use of the dilapidated cash-book system of book-keeping, which attempts to show nothing more than a statement of receipts and expenditures. This is very different from a statement of revenues and expenses which will show the known income and expense for a certain fiscal period, regardless of when or how collected and paid.

Uniform Accounting
Certain obvious advantages in uniformity of accounts, which could only be obtained by a general law applying to all or most of the counties, were brought out as follows:

1. Uniformity would enable a State Board of Accountancy to render valuable aid to the county commissioners concerning their forms of book-keeping and the forms of financial statements that they give the public.
2. Uniformity would permit a manual of the duties of all county officers and a code of county government law to be prepared.
3. Uniform accounts would enable the state Auditor to keep more accurate tab on the bonded indebtedness of the counties and to see that debts are contracted only according to law.
4. An uniform act would give the Legislature opportunity to restore to the commissioners final authority in the fiscal management of the county, as they had under Section 2, Article VII, of the Constitution of 1868, and which has been found by practice to be the most scientific form of management.

Contents of the Bills
The county government bills which are now before the legislature were then examined to see how they proposed to correct the present evils in county government. They cannot prevent public-local legislation but, if adopted, there will be less need for so much of it. They are designed primarily to secure sound financing. One bill provides for either of two forms of government—the existing commissioner form, or the county manager form. It is also provided that a continuing board of commissioners may be elected by counties, if the electors so decide by an election. The county finance act and the county fiscal act are the titles of the (Continued on page eight)